

SPOKE

Conestoga College, Kitchener

November 6, 2000

What's Inside



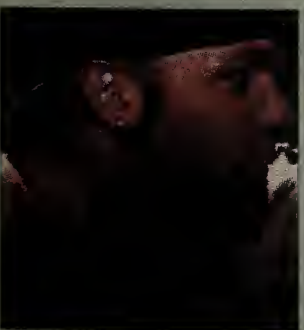
Halloween's meaning has been lost.

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Rafa wins gold

Rafa Abdul of Kitchener, a second-year student in the computer programmer/analyst program at Conestoga College, will be one of only two Ontarians representing Canada at next year's 36th World Skills Competition in Seoul, Korea.

Abdul earned his Team Canada berth by winning a gold medal last week in the information technology - software application event in Edmonton, at the Skills Canada world qualifying competitions.

"I wasn't really nervous," he said in an Oct. 26 interview at the Skills Canada - Ontario headquarters, located at Conestoga. "I knew that my CPA course would help me a lot. I was just looking forward to pitting my skills against the best students in Canada."

Abdul, 20, now begins an intensive, one-year, one-to-one training program with a mentoring information technology expert to prepare for the Seoul event, which takes place Sept. 6-19, 2001.

He entered Conestoga in the fall of 1999 after graduation from

"I'm very excited that I will be able to represent my country against the rest of the world."

Rafa Abdul

Kitchener's Cameron Heights collegiate institute. "I feel absolutely fantastic," he commented.

"I am very excited that I will be able to represent my country against the rest of the world."

Skills Canada is a non-profit organization of educators, business leaders and government representatives dedicated to the promotion of career awareness and opportunity for Canada's young people in the areas of technology and skilled trades.

Conestoga's three-year computer programmer/analyst program is an intensive, challenging program that emphasizes problem solving, analysis and systems development through use of a variety of computer skills, languages and techniques.

Killer party



Danielle DuQuesnay, a second-year nursing student, and Trevor Zeidler, a second-year computer programming student, were among the Conestoga students who came dressed in costumes to the Halloween Biz Bash at the Inner City Nightclub Oct. 26.

(Photo by Sanja Musa)

International student enrolment increases by 89.8 per cent

By Paul Kostal

The projected enrolment of international education students at Conestoga College has grown 89.8 per cent, the college's board of governors heard at their Oct. 23 meeting.

Larry Rechsteiner, Conestoga's director of international education and college planning, said the projected enrolment this year is up to 186.

With a continued growth rate of 40 per cent over the next four years, Rechsteiner said Conestoga would have more than 500 international education students enrolled by 2003/04.

"We think 40 per cent is quite doable," Rechsteiner said.

The greatest percentage of students come from the People's Republic of China, with just over 50 per cent of Conestoga's international student population. China is followed by Korea and Taiwan with 17.3 and 5.6 per cent of Conestoga's international student population, respectively.

Rechsteiner said even though international students are coming into the country, "they are considered to be an export commodity," because most students return to their land of origin. But usually they are more inclined to do busi-

ness with Canada down the road.

He said having international students at Conestoga benefits the college because, "tuition is significantly higher for international students."

The college will continue to attempt to recruit students from China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, while attempting, at the same time, to increase its presence in other parts of the world.

Tuition is significantly higher for international students.

Larry Rechsteiner,
director of
international education and
college planning

Such growth markets include Argentina, Brazil, Columbia, Japan, Korea, Mexico and Venezuela.

Conestoga College's support staff were also high on the order of business.

President John Tibbits said the master negotiating committee for the Ontario Council of Regents acting on behalf of the Ontario community colleges' management has reached a tentative agreement with

the representatives from the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and the vote will be brought to the membership on Nov. 16.

Tibbits said the union's negotiating committee will be recommending the tentative contract to its membership.

Kevin Mullan, Conestoga's vice-president of finance and administration, provided an update on the print shop issue.

Conestoga's administration, in looking for ways to improve the aging facilities of the print shop, located near the bookstore on the main campus, has considered outsourcing the print shop to contracted companies. In order to protect their jobs and their places in the local Ontario Public Service Employees Union, the print shop employees have tabled a counter bid of their own.

Mullan said both the administration and the union have sent surveys to the staff of the college asking for their opinion on the issue, and meetings have been held with the print shop employees.

He said the academic operations committee will make a final recommendation within three weeks and the final decision should take "no more than four weeks."

Brian Tobin to speak at college

By Paul Kostal

Industry Minister Brian Tobin, the former premier of Newfoundland, will speak about industrial issues and the federal election in the Sanctuary at Conestoga College on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m.

"This is the biggest thing to happen in the Sanctuary since I don't remember when," said Mike Harris, CSI vice-president of education.

Harris said the event is open to everyone and he wants the place packed. However, he added: "People bringing in gallons of chocolate milk probably won't be allowed in."

A University of Waterloo student threw chocolate milk at Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day when he came to Conestoga College Oct. 5. Seating in the Sanctuary is limited to 500 people.

The CSI has also extended invitations to the Cambridge-riding federal candidates to come to the Sanctuary to speak to the students at another time.

Security on the lookout for speed demons

By Michelle Goring

Excessive speed on Doon campus is becoming an issue, according to Al Hunter, supervisor of security services.

Cars are speeding around the campus road that runs from Conestoga Boulevard past the

recreation centre around in front of the main teaching building and out to Conestoga Boulevard.

A van collided with a Pontiac Montana parked in front of Door 2 at the main teaching building on the Doon campus, Oct. 16.

Witnesses said the van's driver lost control because of excessive

speed and the van slid on wet pavement.

No one was injured in the incident. The parked van was unoccupied at the time.

No charges were laid by Waterloo regional police who were called to the scene because the accident occurred on private property.

"A number of students have been cautioned," said Hunter. "Students should be aware that if their speed and driving habits constitute a hazard, we will go well beyond warnings and use the student code of conduct."

As outlined in section No. 4 of the Standards of Social Conduct

in the Students Procedure Guide 2000-2001, a student who physically threatens any other student, college employee or visitor may be put on probationary enrolment, suspended, discontinued, debarred (discontinuance, not permitted to reapply) or asked to provide restitution.

TEST

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Read Spoke

Two Conestoga alumni up for Premier's Awards

By Tracy Ford

Conestoga College is nominating two of its Alumni of Distinction for the Premier's Awards this year.

The nominees are Anne Mackay and James Witmer.

MacKay, who graduated in 1987 from the business administration, management studies program, is currently the director of development for the United Way of Kitchener-Waterloo and area.

Witmer graduated from the construction engineering technology program in 1981. He is currently the director of building and chief building official for the City of Kitchener in the planning and development department.

The nominations were submitted to the Premier's Award judges on Oct. 16.

Traditionally, recipients of the Alumni of Distinction awards at Conestoga College are automatically nominated for the Premier's

Awards, but beginning in 2001, that will no longer be true.

"We're going to split it into two awards so we can recognize more of our graduates each year," said Monica Himmelman, an alumni officer.

The winners receive a bronze medal and a \$5,000 bursary.

The nominees for the Premier's Awards from various colleges across Ontario are judged by a panel of experts in the field of applied arts, business, health science and technology. One recipient is selected from each category.

The winners receive a bronze medal and a \$5,000 bursary to the college of their choice. Each nominee receives a certificate of achievement signed by Premier Mike Harris. The winners will be announced in Toronto in February.

Conestoga
College

Quality Policy

Conestoga College continually seeks opportunities for improvement to meet and exceed the needs of our students, employees and communities.



College opens doors to Harbin, China

Partnership gives students Conestoga College diploma

By Paul Kostal

Conestoga College's future lies on the other side of the world.

In the city of Harbin to be more precise. Though it is still in the planning stages, the college has entered into a partnership with a community college in the northern China city.

Harbin is a port city in the northern part of China, in the province of Heilongjiang, just east of the Mongolian border.

It is a modern metropolis which is home to about 2.7 million people which relies on the motor vehicle production, grain and tobacco industries.

The winters there are harsh as it is situated at a latitude equivalent to just north of Ottawa.

As part of a conscious effort to make the college into an international entity, the college's administration has gone ahead with plans to create a joint program where students would spend part of their college career learning in China and a third of the time here, most likely at the Doon campus.

Ron Simmons, Conestoga's vice-president of the School of

Business, said the academic linkage with the college in China will require three teachers who will be employed by Conestoga College to teach.

The details of the joint venture should be completed in China in January of 2001.

"The college offers similar programs to ones offered here."

*Larry Rechsteiner,
Conestoga's director of
international education*

Larry Rechsteiner, Conestoga's director of international education, said representatives from the Heilongjiang International Tourism and Business College, which is still under construction, originally approached Conestoga representatives about the partnership.

"The college offers similar programs to ones offered here," Rechsteiner said. Although the idea of academic partnership is not unique, this is the first such partnership for Conestoga College, he said.

The tentative plan calls for students to learn, in English, at the

college in China for the first two years of the program.

Upon completion of that part of the program, the students will then come to Canada where they will officially become Conestoga College students and will be given full credit for the courses taken overseas.

The final year of the program will be taken at the Doon campus, and a Conestoga College diploma will be awarded to successful graduates upon their return home.

The academic linkage will apply only to the business administration accounting and the management studies programs offered at Conestoga and Harbin.

Rechsteiner said the financial aspect of the venture is significant to the college. He cited the higher tuition international students pay to learn here.

The college in Harbin is scheduled to be completed in January, with the joint program slated to start in early March 2001.

There are currently 650 students with applications in to the college, and they are hoping to have about 2,000 students enrolled when they open.

Problem solving plank



Steve Schwartzenruber (left), Bob Berry and Andrea Marell, second-year robotics and automation students, display their invention on Oct. 25 at Conestoga College. They invented a mechanism used to crush cans as a project in their problem solving and design course.
(Photo by Sanja Musa)

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Free speech versus censorship

The battle over the right to freedom of speech versus censorship in Canada rages on with the latest controversy surrounding American rapper Eminem.

On Oct. 25, one day prior to Eminem's concert with rock/rappers Limp Bizkit at the SkyDome in Toronto, Ontario's Attorney-General Jim Flaherty, said the federal government should stop the rapper from entering Canada to perform, because his lyrics advocate violence against women.

"I personally don't want anyone coming to Canada who will come here and advocate violence against women," said Flaherty, who urged Ontario residents to boycott the concert if Eminem was allowed into the country to perform and not to buy the rappers' CDs.

Flaherty described Eminem's lyrics as "shocking and disgusting" and urged the public not to support him financially.

However, Eminem's newest CD, *The Marshall Mathers LP*, which was released in May and is critically acclaimed, has already sold 700,000 copies in Canada and 12 million copies worldwide.

The rapper who is one of the world's top-selling artists has previously performed four times in Toronto, without controversy, and he has never been banned from performing in any other country.

This isn't the first example of free speech versus censorship and it probably won't be the last.

In June 1990, HMV Canada removed all of its copies of 2 Live Crew's album *As Nasty As They Wanna Be* from their shelves after police threatened to lay obscenity charges against employees if they continued to sell the CD.

In January 1991, British Broadcasting Corp. bigwigs concocted a list of 67 songs they deemed to be unsuitable for broadcast during the Gulf War. Songs such as *Give Peace a Chance* and *Imagine* by John Lennon, *Light My Fire* by the Doors and *I Shot the Sheriff* by Bob Marley, were banned from the airwaves.

In December 1991, The Barenaked Ladies were banned from a show at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto because their band's name was said to objectify women.

And in August 1992, rapper Ice-T had to recall his album *Body Count* to delete its song *Cop Killer*, after members of the Fraternal Order of Police protested the song's lyrics and vowed to continue their boycott of Time-Warner, if the album's profits weren't earmarked for victims' rights groups.

Eminem's lyrics are controversial because he promotes violence against women. Some argue he has the right to freely express himself and if it bothers anyone, that person doesn't have to listen to him, buy his CDs or attend his concerts. Others argue that he is promoting violence against women and just as promoting racial hatred is included in the criminal code, promoting gender violence should also be a crime.

It's difficult to prove that this rapper is inciting violence against women and that someone who abuses women is indeed influenced by a rapper's lyrics. There are studies that show that violence portrayed in movies, television shows and video games do incite children to perform violent acts, however.

And if Eminem was using racial slurs in his lyrics there would be outrage from the community. Would we be citing freedom of speech if he were promoting racial hatred?

Maybe it is time to look at including gender violence in the criminal code. Hatred against women and abuse of women is a harsh reality that cannot be ignored. If promoting racial hatred is a crime, maybe its time to consider promoting gender violence as a crime, too.

Sir, you'd better get out here right now!



Put spirit back into Halloween

The spookiest time of the year has just been upon us. Little girls dressed in poodle skirts and boys as cartoon heroes. Little princesses and Pokemans parade through neighborhood streets to fill their pillowcases or plastic grocery bags with candy.

No peanuts please.

No raisins please.

Mom says not to eat anything that has been opened, including the candy apples you make, so gimmie some chocolate bars.

The meaning of Halloween has been lost and forgotten in a children's wonderland. Kids dress up as their favourite super hero without thinking about the real ghouls of All-hallows Eve.

We greet costumed children at our front door with "oh, look how cute" and "what might you be", when tradition says we should fear these wandering souls.

We need to put the scary back in Halloween. We need the spooks, the goblins, the devils and dark angels, not the expensive plastic

batman suits and furry 101 Dalmatians.

How could someone fear a ballerina who stands three foot nothing?

The spooks and frights

associated with Halloween in North America have faded since the Celts in the 5th century BC observed the official end of summer on Oct. 31. The 2000-year-old Irish festival called Samhain (sow-en) signified the end of the summer crops and the beginning of dreary winter associated with death.

On the eve of Oct. 31 when the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead are blurred, costumes such as animal heads and skins were worn by the Irish to protect them from the spirits of the dead who returned to cause havoc and damage the summer crops.

Celts dressed in scary attire so not to be confronted by a dead rel-

ative while walking the streets at night.

The word Halloween has its origins in the Catholic Church. It comes from a contracted corruption of All Hallows Eve, Nov. 1, All Hallows Day or All Saints Day, a Catholic day of observance in honour of saints. It is the only organized holiday used specifically for the recognition of the dead.

The North American custom of "trick or treating" came from the ninth-century European custom of "going a-souling" when early Christians walked through the streets begging for food and pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the donor's dead relatives on Nov. 2.

If the traditions of Halloween are imbedded in fear and terror, why do we dress our children as kittycats and M&Ms? It's not Easter, so be gone with you fuzzy bunnies.

The frightening and grotesque has evolved into cute and cuddly Winnie the pooh and beautiful Cinderellas who beg, door-to-door, for candy.



Reni Nicholson

SPOKE

Keeping Conestoga College connected

SPOKE is published and produced weekly by the journalism students of Conestoga College.

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Ticket troubles

Metered parking not for those with decals

By Michelle Goring

Tickets have been issued for people with parking decals that have been parking at the meters in Lot 11 where security services has been having problems with parking enforcement.

Lot 11 is located behind the rec centre at Conestoga College's Doon campus.

The lot accommodates people with daily, weekly and semestered decals. The lot also has parking meters for hourly parking, which creates the problem.

Students who have parking decals have been parking at the parking meters when they cannot find a parking space. But this is not allowed, according to supervisor of security services Al Hunter.

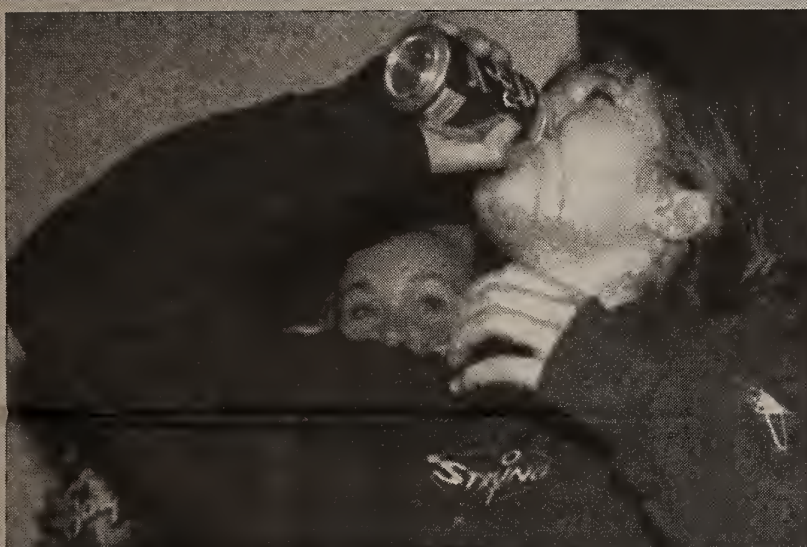
To deter people from parking at the

meters when they have designations, security services has placed a guard to watch that people with designations are parking in the correct place. Security services has also issued warnings, placed signs on the meters and placed a four-by-four sign informing drivers of the parking rules in the lot. Some designated parkers have been issued tickets.

"The last thing we want to do is ticket people," said Hunter, "but we've exhausted every other method."

As an alternative to parking at the meters when the lot is full, Hunter suggests that people with parking decals go to Lot 1. Since Lot 11 fills quickly in the morning, drivers with parking decals should go directly to Lot 1 if they don't arrive early.

Chugalug



Rachel Huse, a second-year early childhood education student, had a hard time keeping all the pop in her mouth during the Root Beer Chug, held Oct. 25 during CSI's alcohol awareness week. (Photo by Dwight Irwin)

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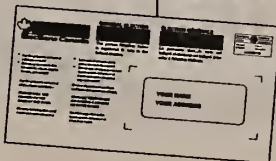
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
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Team done for season

By Dwight Irwin

The Conestoga women's fastball team failed to reach the Ontario College Athletics Association (OCAA) playoff tournament because of their four win, six loss regular season record.

Head coach Mitch Keirstead said handing away three wins is what cost the Condors a playoff position.

"We should've been 7-3 instead of 4-6. That would've put us second in the league," Keirstead said.

Late inning losses to Seneca, Durham and Cambrian hurt not only the team's record but also its chance of making the playoffs.

"The baseball gods just didn't come through for us in those three critical games," Keirstead said. "We were one of the strongest teams in the league, but that's baseball."

The team's offence wasn't the problem. Keirstead said the team put together some "phenomenal" rallies, especially in their 18-8

blowout of last place Canadore.

It was the defence that cost the Condors a couple of wins. In one game Conestoga had more than 10 errors in an 8-7 loss to Seneca.

"We were spotty on defence. We'd play an excellent game and then play a clinker," Keirstead said.

He said league all-star and Conestoga first baseman Lori Walden tore up the league at the plate and even pitched on the first weekend of the season, when the Condors didn't have a true pitcher.

"She was one of the players who put in a gritty performance. She didn't give up an earned run in the second game (of the season)."

Julie Durham, who was named the all-star centre-fielder in the league, also tore up opposing pitchers with 17 or 18 extra base hits in the 10-game season, Keirstead said.

Kristi Freiburger, who joined the team later in the season when she heard they needed pitching, kept the team alive, Keirstead said.

"She held us in games and helped

us come back from deficits."

Keirstead said the difficulty with college sports is getting all the potential players on the team. This year the team lost two or three starters who couldn't commit because of their jobs.

And there is little time to prepare or choose team members. The team played four games in the first two weeks of the school year. Keirstead was still recruiting players the second week of school, after his team had played two games.

"There was no true selection process. A coach always hopes for some competition for spots (on the team)."

Keirstead isn't sure what next year's team will look like. He said a team is lucky to have half of its players return the next year because of jobs, one-year programs or people who are discontinued from their program.

"There's no such thing as a rebuilding season in college sports," he said.

Security cameras double in number

By Michelle Goring

Security services will be doubling the number of closed-circuit television cameras in the Doon campus's main teaching building from 16 to 32.

"The exercise is about prevention and a deterrent," said Al Hunter, supervisor of security services. "It is also to enhance the perception of

security on campus."

The 16 additional cameras will be added from the A Wing through the in-fill addition next to the wood-working centre. Cameras are already installed in the D Wing.

Additional equipment will also be installed in the new expansion to be built west of the main teaching building.

The wiring is partly finished as

6,000 feet has been added for the addition and more wiring is expected to arrive.

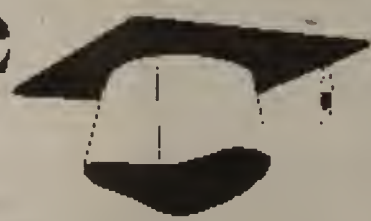
Security services is also hoping to upgrade the security monitoring system at the Rodeway Suites student residence, which the college is in the process of buying, and add closed-circuit TV systems at satellite campuses and the campuses' parking lots.

Attention all Grads.....

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Photos will be done from Oct. 30th to Nov.

Limp Bizkit's new CD comes up a little limp

By Paul Kostal

Well, you gotta give them an "A" for effort anyway.

Limp Bizkit's latest effort, *The Chocolate Starfish and the Hotdog Flavoured Water*, is a trip through well-constructed angst.

If it were possible to bottle rage, Limp Bizkit certainly achieved that.

From beginning to end, this album is a trip through rage, anger and loneliness. Raging against baby boomers and broken loves, front man Fred Durst successfully evokes emotional responses from the listener.

If it were possible to bottle rage, Limp Bizkit certainly achieved that.

At times eloquent, and at times vulgar, the album's songs contain pop references from Nine Inch Nails to Christina Aguilera.

Already a platinum seller in this country, the album had the rare fortune to have three singles fighting for time on the airwaves at the time of its release.

Take a Look Around, Limp Bizkit's take on the Mission Impossible theme, was released as a single this past summer as part of that movie's soundtrack; and the rockin' songs *My Generation* and *Rollin'* were both released about two weeks ago.



These three songs are reason enough to get the CD, if anyone still buys CDs in the age of MP3s. The track *Rollin'*, in particular, successfully combines the best elements of rock, rap and hip hop and is sure to be an instant classic.

Still, there is something lacking. Fabulous rock riffs and thoughtful, if vulgar, lyrics aside, something seems...amiss. There is little else to this album.

Although it is a well constructed album, it seems like that is what was most important. It seems as though the producers spent more time on making sure the album sounded good, rather than on checking to see whether it "said" anything.

This album does sound good. But groups like Limp Bizkit aren't supposed to be about throwaway "sounds good" music. They're supposed to be richer, thicker, meatier.

Still, give them credit for putting out some decent tracks on an otherwise mediocre record.

Listen for the song *My Way* to be the next single; it is one of the few strong tracks on the album, and most of the others have already been released.

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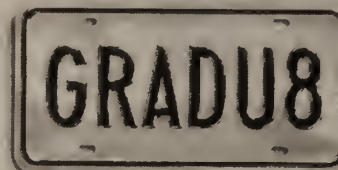
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